

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL

February 6, 2006
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Sager on Tuesday, February 6, 2006 in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Sager described the Consent Agenda format and invited public comment and participation.

ROLL CALL: A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Ahrens, Julie Dillon, Mike Turner, Ralph Webster, Mayor Sager.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Tim Clifton, City Attorneys Rich Flood, Finance Director Roscoe Stelford, Public Works Director John Isbell, Community Development Director Jim Kastner, Director of Human Resources Janelle Crowley, Assistant Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt, Assistant City Manager Derik Morefield, Opera House Director John Scharres, Director of Parks and Recreation Dave Zinnen, Police Chief Robert Lowen, Information Technician John Burns, Production Manager Dave Reeve, Water Treatment Superintendent Will Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT: Plan Commissioner Jack Porter, Vision 2020 Committee Members Denise Graff-Ponstein, Erich Thurow, Kim Kubiak, D-200/Woodstock Joint Task Force Member Kevin Eldridge, City Clerk Maureen Larson.

Mayor Sager verified with the City Clerk that the agenda was a true and accurate reflection of the published agenda.

FLOOR DISCUSSION:

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers' Association presented this award for the City's FY06/07 Budget Document. Mark Nanninee represented the Finance Officers' Association to present the award. The document has satisfied national guidelines for a budget document and met 26 criteria in 4 categories. Out of 4800 entities that have applied, just 90 have received this award, and this is the fourth year Woodstock has been so honored. The Mayor thanked him and commented on how fortunate the City is to have professional staff who achieve this.

Public Comments: Paul Lockwood, 1225 Mitchell Street, announced the formation of smoke-free Woodstock, a grassroots entity to educate the community about the danger of second-hand smoke. He recounted Surgeon General reports of adverse reactions to second hand smoke and stated the group's opinion that all workers have the right to breathe smoke-free air at work. There were no further public comments.

Council Comments: R. Webster thanked all the City staff that participated in Groundhog Day events. The event could not be successful without the Opera House staff, the Police, Public Works and others.

B. Adoption of the City's 2020 Vision Document and Recognition of the Community

Visioning Committee. The Mayor introduced this document, which had its beginnings a year ago with a brainstorming session of 45 residents. The Vision Statement has been produced by the Committee based on that workshop, and it will now provide a foundation for planning. Adoption of this is a commitment to make this vision become a reality via decisions relative to budgeting and policy.

R. Ahrens said Council has made a commitment to listening to the community and fostering the sense of community that defines Woodstock; this guiding document will help keep the things that are important on the front burner. R. Webster believed an absence of a vision was an issue in the past and thanked the Mayor for the leadership to make this a priority. He challenged the Council to attach action statements to the long range goal.

Motion by R. Webster, second by J. Dillon, to adopt the Vision Statement. M. Turner commented that this document, which came from the public level to the Council level, is a good working document. Mr. Clifton added that the statement will be part of the budget preparation.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: R. Ahrens, J. Dillon, M. Turner, R. Webster, Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absentees: None. The Mayor and Council recognized and presented plaques to the individuals who created the document: Denise Graff Ponstein, Kim Kubiak, Jack Porter, Erich Thurow and Charie Zanc.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by R. Ahrens, second by R. Webster, to concur with the Consent Agenda, Items C-F4. The Mayor asked if the public had any removal requests; there were none.

- M. Turner has a question on Item F4,
- R. Webster requested removal of Items F2 and F4;
- J. Dillon has a question on Item F1.

Item F1: J. Dillon asked if the conditions of Plan Commission's motion were met. Mr. Kastner said the developer and engineer have agreed to those conditions and the City is confident they will be addressed.

B. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

January 16, 2007 Regular Meeting

C. WARRANTS: 3213 3214 MFT 447**D. MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

Community Development's Code Enforcement Div. – 2006 Year-End Activity Report
Community Development Building/Activity Report – December 2006 and Year-End
Woodstock Opera House – November 2006
Woodstock Police Department Report – December 2006
Environmental Commission – January 11, 2007
Transportation Commission – January 17, 2007

E. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 441

- 1. Airway Industrial Park – Preliminary Plat --** Adoption of Ordinance No. 07-O-19, identified as Document No. 1, approving the Preliminary Plat of Airway Industrial Park.
- 3. Award of Contract – Pavilion at Bates park –** Award of contract for the construction of a 20' x 25' Raleigh II Wood Beam Structure for the bid price of \$31,310.00 with a completion date of June 1, 2007 at Bates Park to the lowest, responsible bidder, Efraim Carlson and Son.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Turner, R. Webster, R. Ahrens, Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absentees: None. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Zoning Variation – 1245 Cobblestone Way –** Adoption of an Ordinance, identified as Document No. 2, approving a zoning variation at 1245 Cobblestone Way.

R. Webster was not certain whether this request met the criteria as outlined for the Board of Review which states that the change cannot be approved solely for monetary gain. He asked if the previous variance lapsed because the original owner did not go forward with construction. Mr. Kastner said this is the same owner and he is proposing to sell the northern parcel. R. Webster believed the request to build two buildings, which he views as overcrowding, was based in monetary gain. Mr. Kastner said the original owner installed utilities and created easements so this does not represent a monetary gain but an opportunity to break even.

R. Webster asked how much of the site will be under roof compared to what Ordinance allows. The site is 2.12 acres, approximately 95,000 square feet, and the buildings will cover 32,000, which is within Ordinance allowances. R. Webster is not convinced that this issue was not created by the current owner and that it is not in fact for monetary gain on behalf of the buyer. He asked to hear from the owner, but the owner was not present. Mr. Kastner confirmed the owner had been advised of the meeting.

The Mayor outlined three options: vote on the item as is, postpone it to the next Council meeting or table it to allow the petitioner and staff establish a date for the petitioner to appear before Council. J. Dillon asked if the Plan Commission's concern about emergency access to the site had been addressed and was told by Mr. Kastner that there are two easements that provide two access routes for emergency vehicles. Motion by R. Webster to table this issue with the intent that staff will communicate with the petitioner to find the best time for them to be present. R. Webster asked that it not be discussed February 20 when he will be attending the meeting by phone. Second by M. Turner. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Turner, R. Webster, Mayor Sager. Nays: R. Ahrens. Abstentions: None. Absentees: None. Motion carried.

- 4. Water Conservation and Restriction –** Adoption of Ordinance No. 07-O-20, identified as Document No. 3, amending the City Code of the City of Woodstock

providing the authority to the City to temporarily enforce the restriction and/or prohibition of water from the municipal water supply for the purposes of outdoor water use.

R. Webster approves of this Ordinance and the proactive stance it represents. He is requesting that Woodstock impose the watering restrictions throughout the summer without a triggering event. He proposes modifying the recommendation to have even/odd watering restrictions. J. Dillon appreciates the effort for conservation, but believes an education process should come before an enforced restriction; her preference is for an education process with a voluntary watering structure. M. Turner is not ready for a blanket restriction either. He did have a question on what triggers would enact the restriction, but stressed that any discussion of water restrictions without a triggering event should be a public discussion. He is willing to consider it, but at this point he agrees with the Ordinance as written and would like more information on whether the trigger is administrative or a Council action.

The Mayor described the difference between a restriction and a watering program. R. Ahrens believed this Ordinance as written was an important step to put the process in place for an emergency situation. He believes education is vital and that if the public understands the needs and reasons for the conserving they will voluntarily take many of these steps on their own. A mechanism for enforcement is another important element, but that has to follow education.

Mr. Van Landuyt said Public Works is seeking conservation, education and the steps necessary to protect the community if a mechanical issue or drop in aquifer levels necessitates a restriction. They are simply trying to start conservation with education at grade school levels, the media and City Manager's newsletter and are asking for the ability to impose this restriction if necessary.

R. Webster said, at the very least, all the benefits of this conservation could be realized immediately. Having an abundance of a resource doesn't mean it should be used, so educating the public is the least we should do. But if Council goes with a voluntary program he would want to know how to evaluate whether a voluntary conservation program was having any effect. If there is no effect Council needs to be willing to be restrictive. He supports this Ordinance but follows that up with a request that between now and summer a voluntary program be developed to start advertising to residents asking them to conserve water, and that it be monitored to see if there is an impact. M. Turner said that if a discussion of tighter restrictions is held, he would like more information on that statistic mentioned about individual usage in Woodstock compared to the national average, and whether restrictions would have an actual impact. He would like more information on averages in McHenry County, Chicagoland area.

Mayor asked if it the measurements are based on water meters. Mr. Van Landuyt said it is based on gallons pumped per day, per capita. The Mayor said we should be willing to consider whether our delivery system is resulting in some loss; the distinction between consumption vs. pumping is important. R. Webster said as Council moves to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that concern should be

factored in to decisions on water mains, etc. He agrees we can't have a program in place if the City is not doing all it can to be sure what we pump is getting to the end user.

Mayor summarized that R. Webster is in favor of a proactive even/odd program but other Council members, while not necessarily opposed, do not believe that the timing is right to consider it at this meeting. M. Turner just wants more information and discussion. J. Dillon reiterated that her preference is for this to start as a program rather than a restriction. The Mayor said this could be considered as written, or could be postponed to time specific with the request that staff incorporate a program -- possibly with an even/odd structure -- and with the intent of allowing the public to view it and have a chance to communicate with Council. M. Turner, J. Dillon and R. Ahrens were in favor of taking action on this Ordinance as written. The Mayor thanked the staff for their proactive steps.

Mayor asked staff to clarify the parameters of the decisions on when to enact the restriction. It will be based on recommendations of the water superintendent and the Public Works director and assistant director. It may not be possible to consult Council prior to enacting the restriction but Council will be notified. Possible causes include an emergency situation with a pump out, or a drought or shortage. The restriction allows a gradation depending on the severity of condition. The Mayor wanted it to be clear that routine monitoring of wells will provide the information, and Mr. Van Landuyt concurred that the City's ability to regenerate the levels in the water tower is a quantifiable matter.

Mr. Clifton said this stems from the 2020 report, and from experience. In costs more to pump water in the summer and the public does not presently seem to grasp the need for conservation. He also clarified that our systems are adequate and could probably continue on as is, but this is 100% a conservation measure. R. Webster reiterated that he is looking for provisions that will ask people to conserve and if that doesn't have results the City should take the next step. The Mayor added that if supply and demand forces were in place the prices would rise in the summer, but the City doesn't do that. There is much that can be done to invite participation.

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Dillon, to adopt this Ordinance to amend the City Code of the City of Woodstock pertaining to limitations on the use of water.

Public Comment: Denver Walker, 260 Prairie Ridge Drive, supported this program and the conservation, and commented that the price of water is a built-in restriction.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: R. Webster, R. Ahrens, J. Dillon, M. Turner, Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absentees: None. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**5. Bicycle Trail – Presentation regarding the Woodstock-US Route 14 Bicycle Trail Improvements.**

Michael Plant, of Baxter and Woodman, reviewed the progress to date on alternatives to connect the two largest communities in McHenry County. The path begins in Veterans Acres, travels along Route 176 and then up Route 14.

Mayor Sager recognized that there is a regional effort actively in place. M. Turner asked what the funding expectations are of the City but was told that is unknown. The leg of the trail along Lake Street has been completed by Wal-Mart, but plans from Route 47 to the Recreation Center need to be finalized and further east of Lake the indications are that the cost will be borne 100% by Woodstock. They are willing to do the engineering. At that juncture, when costs are known, we will approach legislators to work with IDOT to secure some funding so that we are not providing 100%, which no other communities are required to do. MCCD has secured funding for the Commonwealth Edison easement and that will be a 50/50 match between IDNR and MCCD. We will also be asking for MCCD contributions to our portions.

Private investment might also be an option, particularly with industries along that stretch. Much of that is undeveloped, so as projects come in this can be a requirement. Private funding can also help attract the other sources of funding.

6. Five-Year Capital Improvement Program – Discussion of the Five-Year CIP for FY07/08 through FY11/12.

This is on the agenda for dialogue, not as an action item. Mr. Stelford explained that \$3.5 million of bond revenue is carried over in the fund balance. The telecommunications tax had a shortfall and when R. Ahrens asked the cause, Mr. Clifton said the reductions began when the state took over the tracking and recording of finances. The City believes a lot of the loss is an accounting function, and a small portion may be due to greater use of cell phones.

R. Ahrens asked if City's gas storage tanks are up to the new standards. All have been removed; the Davis Road tanks will be purchased and will be above ground, double-walled. As for liability on the landfill, the claims for damages based on past occurrences are under negotiations. The attorney is working to reach an agreement whereby any settlement money is used for environmental purposes in the area. The funds are in the budget for this fiscal year, not in the CIP for next year. The amount will be discussed with Council when that time comes.

The Mayor noted the City's conservative approach to budgeting, which keeps costs down and provides flexibility for the Council and City while allowing for planning.

Mr. Clifton stressed that matching funds are required for STP projects, and that will draw down the fund reserve which has been built up. Funds were also previously built up for Parks but with Davis Road and The Fields that reserve has been depleted and will need to be built up again.

R. Webster commented that keeping public safety vehicles and equipment in good repair needs to be a priority.

Mr. Clifton said that privatization of a parking structure will be part of the discussions with parking system experts; the money in the CIP for this is to hire that expert.

Parks: M. Turner said that relative to the Parks Priority summary, the need at Main field is not a bullpen, but an exit point that does not require running by home plate. He said Little League has asked if the money for the last phase of lighting Bates could be moved to Sullivan Field. Mr. Clifton said that transfer of priorities has been included, but all competing projects are listed and the goal is to seek a balance; all these projects are pending funding. R. Webster said with the amount invested in ball diamonds and soccer fields he is at a saturation point. Whatever money is spent should be allocated based on input from user groups. He also advocated looking for private funding. R. Ahrens added that dollars have to be spent in ways that benefit a broad spectrum. The Mayor added that a Dog Park is one item that he hears requests for but he understands that priorities may not allow for that. He would, however, advocate demolition of the Peters Pool building as a high priority. He agreed to moving Sullivan Field lighting up the priority list, but only if Bates is moved down.

Lightning Detection: J. Dillon approved of the addition of a citywide lightning detection system. M. Turner added that it is a key safety issue which should be important to District 200 as well, so 50/50 sharing of costs makes sense. Scott Wessel, the head umpire for Little League, is present to add to the discussion. Mr. Clifton said staff has heard negative comments about false alarms from other communities with such systems and believes it needs more study. Mr. Wessel, 721 Lake Avenue, serves as an umpire, D-200 coach and Little League coach as well as an athlete, and he believes there is a need for lightning detection. The system he proposes detects atmospheric conditions favorable to lightning, much like a tornado watch vs. a tornado warning. Visual warnings aren't adequate. Lightning strikes kill more people each year than tornadoes and hurricanes combined. His proposal would cover both District 200 and City facilities and includes strategically placed base stations and remote stations. Cost estimate is \$30,000; he has secured \$1,000 from the Rotary Club. He is asking the City to cover a large portion, along with District 200, and he would also spearhead fundraising to get it in place. Woodstock could be one of the first to implement a city-wide plan; Crystal Lake has a system at Lippold Park. A lightning detection system helps everyone agree on and act on the threat.

Bob Stroh, 771 Roger Road, the president of Little League, stated for the record that Little League is asking the City to go forward with lighting Bates #6 but to move the funds designated for lighting Bates #5 over to Sullivan Field, one of the best 60-foot ball diamonds in the state. Losing lights at Sullivan would cut the games played on that field by 30%. Mr. Clifton concurred that if funds are made available for that purpose the priority for lighting is Sullivan Field.

After due diligence to be sure the system can work properly, the City will look at moving lightning detection up to a priority A for City facilities.

Other Items: M. Turner suggested using the water tower on Lake Street to more advantage for improving our image. The cost is substantial, said Mr. Clifton.

The Mayor clarified that no municipal funds are included for extending utilities out Route 120.

R. Webster asked if we would need another wastewater treatment plant in future. The current plan projects coverage to 2050, so that is not an immediate need.

“Green” vehicles listed will be used initially by Mr. Isbell and another technical staff member to judge their effectiveness.

The idea of a library satellite at the new high school has not moved forward.

R. Ahrens noted that weigh scales for trucks should be looked at from a safety angle along with other issues relative to trucks.

Mr. Clifton thanked D. Morefield and R. Stelford and department directors.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

R. Webster will not be in Woodstock on February 20 due to fire department training in Champaign. He will phone in to the meeting. The Mayor added that revisions to liquor license fees and codes will be on the agenda February 20 and notification of that has gone out.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Dillon, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to the regular meeting to be held February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. Ayes: R. Ahrens, J. Dillon, M. Turner, R. Webster, Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absentees: None. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Larson
City Clerk